

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A process for the manufacture 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate comprising reacting ketoisophorone with an acylating agent in the presence of an indium salt as a catalyst.
2. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the indium salt is indium trichloride or indium tris (trifluoromethanesulfonate).
3. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the acylating agent is an acid anhydride, an acyl halide or an enol ester.
4. (original) The process according to claim 3, wherein the acylating agent is a straight or branched chain alcanoic acid anhydride, preferably acetic, propionic or butyric anhydride; a straight or branched chain alkanoyl chloride, preferably acetyl, propionyl or butyryl chloride; or, an enol ester, preferably isopropenyl acetate or butyrate.
5. (currently amended) The process according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of the acylating agent to ketoisophorone is from about 1:1 to about 5:1, preferably from about 2:1 to about 3:1, most preferably about 3:1.
6. (currently amended) The process according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the amount of the indium salt used as the catalyst is from about 0.1 mol-% to about 2 mol-%, preferably from about 0.1 to about 1 mol-%, based on the amount of ketoisophorone.
7. (currently amended) The process according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the acylating reaction is carried out at a temperature of from about 0°C to about 140°C, preferably from about 25°C to about 90°C, more preferably from about 25°C to about 70°C.

8. (currently amended) The process according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein the 2,3, 5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate obtained is converted into (all-rac)- α -tocopherol by transesterification to yield 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone and reaction of the latter with isophytol and/or phytol.

9. (currently amended) A process for the manufacture of 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone whereby the 2,3,5- trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate obtained according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 is used as starting material.

10. (currently amended) The process according to claim 9, whereby the 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate ~~obtained by one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ is transesterified to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone.

11. (currently amended) A process for the manufacture of α -tocopherol and its alkanoates, especially of (all-rac)- α -tocopherol and its acetate, comprising the reaction of ketoisophorone to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

12. (currently amended) A process for the manufacture of formulations of α -tocopherol and its alkanoates, especially of formulations of (all-rac)- α -tocopherol and its acetate, comprising the reaction of ketoisophorone to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.